

## INSURGENTS DEMAND BIN LADEN CUT TIES WITH AL QAEDA IN IRAQ

Several extremists' websites began airing a video this month criticizing al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) for inciting "strife" within the Iraqi insurgency. In the video, an insurgent leader named Abu Usama al-Iraqi called on Osama bin Laden to cut his ties with AQI.



In a rare instance of criticism, the video suggests that al Qaeda's central leadership could find better partners, according to Department of Defense policy reports. It is an even rarer example of militants openly questioning the judgment and challenging the decisions of bin Laden himself.

The timing of the video's release suggests that it is an attempt to counteract the ongoing media campaign of AQI and the Mujahideen Shura Council, the umbrella organization of which AQI is the leading member. The campaign begun by the Council is an attempt to bring all Iraqi insurgent groups under its banner.

***"Either you dissolve [AQI's] oath of allegiance [to you], and we will be your sons, able to cope with leading the war and the jihad here, or you remain silent – and don't expect us to take it well.... The keys to the lock of strife are in your hand, so either lock it or unlock it."***

— Abu Usama al-Iraqi, video appearing on Oct. 12, 2006

## 9/11 OPERATIVE FACES TRIAL

Last week President Bush signed the Military Commissions Act of 2006 that allows the CIA program for the questioning of key terrorist leaders and operatives to continue. This bill paves the way for the trial of Ramzi bin al-Shibh, believed to have been the primary communications intermediary between the 9/11 hijackers and al Qaeda.

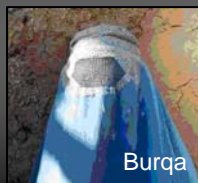
Having met Muhammad Attah and two other 9/11 hijackers in Hamburg, Germany, Ramzi Bin al-Shibh traveled to Afghanistan, was recruited by bin Laden and slated to be a 9/11 hijacker pilot. His plans were thwarted, however, when his requests for a U.S. visa were denied. Al-Shibh played an important role, reportedly transferring money and detailed plans between al Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the hijackers.



The CIA's interrogation of another al Qaeda member, Abu Zubaydah, provided information that led to al-Shibh's capture. Al Shibh was then similarly interrogated and provided information that resulted in the capture of Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, the man considered the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks.

## AL QAEDA'S DEMANDS FOR STRICT ADHERENCE TO SHARIA

Sharia, sometimes referred to as Sharia law, is an Islamic-based set of standards for living. Various interpretations of these rules are used around the world to varying degrees – from countries that base their legal system on the rules to countries that merely recognize community practice of Sharia.



Burqa

Al Qaeda leaders have repeatedly said that their goal is to reestablish the caliphate, or Islamic State, and rule it with a narrow, strict interpretation of Sharia. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan was an example of rule by an extreme interpretation of Sharia. Some of the restrictions they called for include stoning to death married adulterers, amputating hands of convicted thieves, and restricting dress, as well as educational and employment opportunities for women.